

## **Merleau-Ponty's Embodied Semantics —From Immanent Meaning, to Gesture, to Language**

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### **Abstract**

Merleau-Ponty gave us an exemplary model of an empirically responsible philosophy of mind and language. At the heart of his view is his rejection of mind-body dualism and a view of meaning as tied to human embodiment. Merleau-Ponty gave an account of gestural meaning that can serve as the basis for a theory of meaning in general, including linguistic meaning. I show how gesture is embodied, immanent meaning and how it works in the same ways as meaning in art. Eugene Gendlin's account of the felt sense that accompanies semantic forms and structures can provide a link between an account of immanent gestural and artistic meaning and an account of embodied meaning in language and thought.

**Key Words:** body, enactment, felt quality, meaning, principle of continuity